



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2005-03-0209

September 1, 2005

DNR BRIBE

Inspector General David O. Thomas reports to Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., after an investigation by Special Agent Alan McElroy, as follows:

In March of 2005, a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) employee was contacted by a private individual and asked to take a bribe, with the intent to secure a business contract with the DNR.

Ronald Adkins was seeking a concession contract with the DNR. The contract would allow him to operate the saddle barn at a state park facility during the summer of 2005. Ronald Adkins asked the DNR employee if he could give the employee \$1,000 to assure that he would get the contract over the other bidders. The DNR employee did not respond to Adkins bribe, and instead contacted the employee's supervisors who then brought the matter to the attention of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). An investigation was launched.

With support from the OIG, the DNR employee then contacted Ronald Adkins by telephone and told him the employee had been thinking about his offer

and decided to accept. Ronald Adkins then offered an additional \$500.00 bribe to secure a second saddle barn contract at another state park facility. A time and place were arranged for Adkins to bring the money to the employee.

On March 31, 2005, Ronald Adkins came to the designated area, the cafeteria at Indiana Government Center South. He brought with him a check in the amount of \$1,000 and an additional \$500 in cash. He gave the DNR employee the money in anticipation that he would receive the two contracts over the other bidders. This transaction was recorded by video and audio devices.

The equipment and support for this investigation were provided by the Indiana State Police.

On April 5, 2005, OIG Special Agent Alan McElroy traveled to the residence of Ronald Adkins in Laurel, Indiana, where Ronald Adkins was interviewed. Adkins was confronted with what had been recorded, and he confessed to the bribe.

Documentation and evidence of the videotape of the bribe and the confession were submitted to the Marion County Prosecutor's Office on April 11, 2005. OIG Special Agents Alan McElroy and Troy Stanton, with assistance from the Indiana State Police, arrested Ronald Adkins at his residence on April 12 2005. Ronald Adkins was charged with Bribery, a Class C felony under Indiana Code 35-44-1-1.

Dated this 1st day of September, 2005.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Thomas", written over a horizontal line.

David Thomas, Inspector General